

Wright State University

CORE Scholar

Oscar D. Ladley Papers (MS-138)

Special Collections and Archives

4-4-1864

Letter, 1864 April 4, Oscar D. Ladley to Mother and Sisters [Catherine, Mary, and Alice Ladley]

Oscar D. Ladley

Follow this and additional works at: https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/special_ms138



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Ladley, O. D. (1864). *Letter, 1864 April 4, Oscar D. Ladley to Mother and Sisters [Catherine, Mary, and Alice Ladley]*. .

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and Archives at CORE Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Oscar D. Ladley Papers (MS-138) by an authorized administrator of CORE Scholar. For more information, please contact library-corescholar@wright.edu.

Camp York or S.
Jacksonville, Fla.

April 4th 1864.

Dear Mother & Sisters,

I received yours

of March 20th last night (Sunday).

So you still have cold weather in Ohio
do you? We have it very pleasant in this
part of the world. You seem uneasy about
the money that I spoke of expressing home,
you need not feel uneasy because I
have not sent any except the \$20. that
you received. I had intend sending
about \$100, but we left in such a
hurry that I could not get it
off. And then upon second thought I
concluded to keep it because I
did not know when we would be
paid again. Who do you mean in
speaking of the last one to Richmond,
do you mean Kilpatrick? If so I have
heard of it. I used to see Col. Dalgreen

Often when he was with Fremont
and Seigel. He was then a Lieutenant
and A.D.C. I saw a likeness of him
in Harpers Weekly and it looks just
like he then did.

I don't believe there are any shells
put up for Mr Lotter, as those I packed
were put up on Holly Oak, and I
was doing them up when we got
orders to get ready immediately, so those
that were done up I put in my valise
and they came up a short time
before the Veterans started so I
sent them. And the balance did not
get here until to day, when I send
the rest I will have come for them.
And Dr. Protzman were left behind
also. I am glad to hear that Allie
is well again, you did not write as
though she was very sick.
Well we may have to go back to the
Army of the Potomac, and there are
a great many runners flying around
to that effect. But we cannot tell

any thing about it.

Well, one more fight to add to our already numerous catalog. Just after dinner on Saturday orders came to fall in to reconnoiter the enemy's position. The 75th went to support the 40th Mass. Mountain Infantry. In about fifteen minutes after the order came we were ready, after marching about two miles the Regt. was divided. Col Harris taking the right wing and Major Fox the left. I was with the left, we took a road leading diagonally from the main road, with about fifty cavalry ahead of us; we kept up with them and when their advance were fired on, the cavalry halted and we were ordered ahead and ~~deployed~~ Co. H. & my Company were ordered to deploy as skirmishers which was done on the double quick and under fire, and the remaining Co., I, were the reserve with the cavalry who limbered to the rear in a big hurry. Well we advanced slowly from one tree to another

until we drove them quite a distance and as the orders were not to bring on a general engagement we halted and kept up the fire. The left of my Company got so close that the boys could talk to each other. We escaped ~~my~~ with only two wounded, one severely, and one musket disabled by a ball from the enemy. We consider it quite a joke to be ordered out to support the Cavalry or mounted Infantry, and then just as soon as the first gun was fired, they "right about wheel" and leave us to take care of any thing in front. Col. Harris on the ~~right~~ ^{left} had quite a brisk skirmish though we were separated so far that we could not hear each others guns. Had the enemy known our strength they could played smash with us. We were very highly complimented by Col. Perry Comdg. Light Brigade. Col. Harris remarked just before we separated that

39
"we can't make quite as fine
appearance on inspections as some of
these Eastern troops down here, but
when they want any little ticklish
job done they know who to call
upon!" Marsh got thrashed did he?
I wish the boys would rid the place
of all such. There is more honor
in one dirty reb. than in all the
butternuts that I know. When the war
is over I should like to help drive
them ^{all} into Canada.

I sent the shells by Mory, and letter
by John Finn.

I will close. My respects to all
engineering friends

Affectionately

O. D. Dudley

P.S. I sent you some
papers in the box of Shells -
also two by mail last week
viz "Palmetto Herald" & "Peninsula"
the latter printed in this place.